GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:137
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2005
IMPORT OF EDIBLE OIL
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of edible oil imported by the Government during the year 2004-05 indicating the total cost involved therein;

(b) the growth rate of production and import of edible oil during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether a decline in production of edible oils is expected in the country during 2005-06;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to increase the import of edible oil;

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the additional cost likely to be incurred; and

(f) the other steps taken to maintain the supply of edible oil in the country in order to control the rising prices?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a): Edible oil has not been imported by the Government during the year 2004-2005.

(b): Production estimates and import of edible oil during the last three years have been as under:

(in lakh tonnes)

Year	Production (net availability from all domestic sources) of edible oils	Import of edible oil
2001-2002	61.46	43.22
2002-2003	46.64	43.65
2003-2004	71.64	52.90

(c): It is too early to assess the production of oilseeds and hence of edible oils during the year 2005-06 at this stage.

(d) & (e): Do not arise.

(f): Some of the steps taken in this regard are :-

(i) Import of edible oils (except coconut oil) has been allowed on Open General Licence (OGL).

(ii) The import duty structure of edible oils is reviewed from time to time.

(iii)Government is keeping a watch on the prices and availability situation of edible oils in the country.